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Message Text

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22
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /085 W
---------- 008629
R 241754Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5195
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 4292

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR ML PFOR
SUBJECT: TALK WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

1. DURING LONG CONVERSATION WITH DCM AT
AIRPORT NOV 22, SOVIET AMBASSADOR MALIK FAZYLOV SAID
THAT HE HAD NOT YET COMPLETED HIS COURTESY CALLS ON
MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND GOVERNMENT MINIS-
TERS. FAZYLOV SAID WITH A MIXTURE OF RESIGNATION AND
ANNOYANCE THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN MINISTER OF DEFENSE
DOUKARA, COMMITTEE MEMBER LT. COL. MISSA KONE AND
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SORY COULIBALY
WHO IS SENIOR CIVILIAN MINISTER AND HAS SPECIAL
TITEL OF DELEGATE TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

2. FAZYLOV PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS IN AUGUST AND
HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD DCM THAT PAYING INITIAL COURTESY
CALL IN BAMAKO WAS A SLOW BUSINESS. ON ANOTHER
OCCASION, FAZYLOV, WHEN DISCUSSING MALIAN NON-ALIGNMENT
WITH DCM, COMMENTED THAT MALIANS WERE CERTAINLY NON-
ALIGNED-THEY TOOK AID FROM EVERYBODY.
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3. COMMENT: ABOVE COMMENTS BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR REINFORCE A SUSPICION THAT SOVIETS ARE DISAPPOINTED IN MALIANS FOR NOT SUPPORTING SOVIET-CUBAN POSITIONS, E.G., SPANISH SAHARA, CRITICISM OF THE US ROLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IN ADDITION, MALIAN PRESIDENT IN SPEECH NOV. 19, MARKING EIGHT ANNIVERSARY ACCESSION TO POWER, AGAIN REAFFIRMED IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE SECTOR AND OUTSIDE INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING MALIAN ECONOMY. THESE ARE ADMITTEDLY SLIM REEDS, BUT MALIANS HAVE SO FAR NOT CHOSEN TO DISCUSS THEIR RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND ONLY SOVIET AMBASSADOR WILL EVEN APPROACH SUBJECT. WHILE ANY CONCLUSION WOULD BE PREMATURE, SOVIETS MAY BE UNHAPPY WITH MALIAN BRAND OF NON-ALIGNMENT.
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